**Upgrading Sedimentary Basins**

675. SHRI D.B. CHANDRE GOWDA:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the oil and Natural Gas Commission propose to upgrade the three sedimentary basins of Cauvery, Krishna-Godavari and Tripura from Category-II to category-I;

(b) whether after upgrading the category the old exploration from these areas will be speeded up; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The basins have been accorded high priority under exploration programme and the tempo will continue during VIII plan.

(c) During VIII Plan, the currently envisaged quantum of exploratory work in these basins is as below:

| | Seismic Survey (2D) | Seismic (3D) | Exploratory Drilling (m) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Krishna-Godavari | 15400 LK | 360 Sq. Km. | 442400 |
| Cauvery | 11600 LK | 360 Sq. Km. (+) 6000 LK | 602640 |
| Tripura | 12260 SLK * | 110 Sq. Km.* | 226260 |
| *includes Manipur | Schuppen Belt, Tripura and | Cachar, Mizoram. | |

**Gas Pipe Line from Bombay High to Kanyakumari**

676. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government are considering the proposal of Kerala Government to lay down a gas pipeline from Bombay Hibh to Kanyakumari for carrying natural gas for industrial use in the Southern States of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Karala;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The present availability of natural gas does not permit the laying of a pipeline from Bombay High to Kanyakumari.

**Complaints against Gas Agencies**

677. SHRI T.R. BALU:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of complaints received against gas agencies about forcing the customers to purchase hot plates at the time of releasing new connections, year-wise/Corporation-wise and State-wise;

(b) what is the number of cases wherein Government have taken sanction against the concerned gas agen-